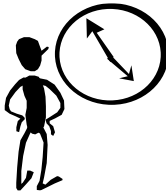


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Time of Assembly



Every other Sunday:

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.

OR

Bible Study 4:00 p.m.
Worship 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 p. m.

Propaganda Wars

By Terry Wane Benton

There was the **truth** that Jesus was in fact raised from the dead, and then there were the opposition forces who needed to keep the nation from converting to Jesus. They wanted to stay in control of the crowds and keep their wealthy pockets padded. To lose control to Jesus would mean that their lies would be exposed, and they would lose their ivory palaces of wealth and power. So, this first effort at propaganda was to claim that the “*disciples stole the body.*” But this was too much of a risk to the soldiers if they let it happen, so that piece of propaganda did not last long. There were now too many eyewitnesses who were saying that they **saw** the risen Christ. The propagandists were not able to refute the evidence of their own scriptures that prophesied of the Suffering Servant dying for our sins and then having his days “prolonged” ([Isaiah 53](#)), or David saying that his soul would not be left in Hades nor his flesh seeing corruption ([Psalms 16](#)). God’s word had been taught as true and fully dependable. How could the left (left of truth or propagandists) refute all the verses that described Jesus? It was a landslide of evidence that they would have to explain away. Add to that tremendous amount of evidence the fact that they cannot produce the dead body of Jesus **and** many people had already seen Him alive again. It was becoming too much to keep explaining away and covering up. [Acts 1-7](#) shows each move the left made.

The next move was to command the disciples (by local government authority) to not teach in Jesus’ name anymore. The disciples said they had to obey **God** over man. Then they threatened and beat them, but they were too excited about the risen Jesus and the **Truth** of all that this implied about really having forgiveness of sins **and** a real hope of eternal life. The left could not squelch their enthusiasm for

the truth. They tried censoring them and killing them but to no avail. They wore their beatings as a badge of honor. Jesus suffered for them and now they are glad to suffer for Him. The propaganda wars continued in [Acts 6](#) when Stephen was falsely accused of speaking against the temple and the law of Moses. But Daniel had long before prophesied the fall of the temple ([Daniel 9:24ff](#)). Was Daniel guilty of insurrection and speaking against the temple? No! Was David speaking against Moses, who was tied to the **Levitical** priesthood, when he spoke of the Lord being a priest after the order of Melchizedek? ([Psalms 110](#)). That was a change of the law projected right there in their own scriptures. Combine that with [Jeremiah 31:31ff](#) and you know that there was a "new covenant" coming that would be greater than the old ([Hebrews 8-9](#)). So, it was a propaganda war to quiet the messengers. If you can intimidate and silence the messengers of truth, then truth becomes a lie. People forget so easily!

When you cannot sort out the truth from propaganda, you have to watch and weigh the evidence, and demand to see the evidence. If you are denied access to evidence, there is a war for minds. One side wanting to get the evidence out for people to see, and the other side trying to silence those voices. We've seen these same kinds of mind-control wars going on all through history. On Pentecost Peter laid out the case for believing Jesus is "now both Lord and Christ" ([Acts 2:22-36](#)). Many were convicted ([Acts 2:37](#)) and aligned themselves with the truth ([Acts 2:38-42](#)). The truth set them free from doubt, and the power of the leaders of Israel. It freed them from an aimless life, and from a misled life, as well as from a condemned life. Their conscience could be clear because they now knew the difference between truth and the false information that they had been fed. Jesus truly is both **Lord** and **Christ**. That truth has set many people free ([John 8:30-31](#)). It still sets us free today! Have you been listening to the devil's propaganda? Have you heard the evidence of Jesus?

Rhetoric in the Propaganda Wars

By Terry Wane Benton

It is interesting how the rhetoric used in truth vs. propaganda often turns to prejudicial phrases. Elijah was called a "troubler" in Israel, by the wicked king ([1 Kings 18:17](#)). Who **really** was the troubler? Was it not those who grew to accept immorality and idolatry? But Ahab used the word "troubler" to close minds against God's messenger. I have noticed through the years that members of the church get drawn into such useful rhetoric. When false teaching is being spread or a brother is living in sin, if such is addressed, the "troubler" is whoever speaks up to **oppose** sin or false teaching. It becomes a convenient propaganda war to make the good guy look bad and to protect the bad guy and his "friends." The good guy gets marked as "divisive," or other convenient terms. Often we find that "truth" is not what people **want** to hear or stand for. Truth is

often inconvenient.

In our society, it will be easy to swallow the rhetoric. "Racist, white supremacist, xenophobe, homophobe, hate, insurrectionist, divisive, etc." are terms that can be used against innocent people for prejudicial purposes. It is all part of the propaganda wars to actually label innocent people and isolate them, treating them as the "troublers in Israel." But who is **actually** guilty of the accusation? That takes more thought and investigation. It often comes down to a sense of fairness, not being quick to judge, and taking time to analyze what you can gather in evidence and relevant information.

Jesus knew no sin, but propaganda succeeded in crucifying an innocent man. They claimed he was an insurrectionist, that He was going to replace Caesar, and if you respected Caesar you will not let this insurrectionist live. The truth was that Jesus was no insurrectionist and was not here to destroy the Roman government ([John 18:35-38](#)). But propaganda seemed to prevail. The truth takes investigation. Propaganda is often emotion-driven, and people more easily get swept into emotion more quickly than they are given to rational search for evidence.

Truth is not always self-evident, but it wins in the end, if not now, it will when we stand before the judgment seat of Christ ([II Corinthians 5:10](#)). Be careful not to be swept up into the propaganda wars. Seek for the truth. The truth will win and make you a winner.

Propaganda Wars – Truth Can't Be Cut Off

By Terry Wane Benton

We have the book of Jeremiah only because **truth** wins in the end. But think of the propaganda that seemed to prevail when Jeremiah was trying to preach to the corrupt establishment. God had an important mission for Jeremiah, "*to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant*" ([Jeremiah 1:10](#)). Demolition before reconstruction.

The leadership of Israel all the way to the kings and priests were corrupt, while padding their pockets, telling people what they wanted to hear, but never telling the truth. They were content to lead the nation into moral ruin and depravity, spreading propaganda that all was well, "*peace, peace, when there is no peace*" ([Jeremiah 6:13-15](#)). The people were willing to swallow the lies (propaganda) and the leaders were willing to keep feeding them such ([Jeremiah 7:24](#)). "*Truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth*" ([Jeremiah 7:28](#)).

As for Jeremiah, when he tried to share the truth of God they "*devised schemes against him*" ([Jeremiah 11:19](#)) and planned to "*cut him off*" that his name would be remembered no more ([Jeremiah 11:19](#)). When you hate the truth you have to devise

schemes to keep it from exposing you. The leaders pretended that Jeremiah was the bad guy and that the priests were the good guys ([Jeremiah 18:18](#)). Jeremiah was committed to truth, and the leaders of Israel were committed to propaganda wars to make people think Jeremiah was the troubler and deceiver.

King Jehoiakim cut the scroll of God's message and threw it into the fire ([Jeremiah 36](#)). This was their censorship effort. But Jeremiah just rewrote it. They threw him into prison ([Jeremiah 37](#)), a dreary dungeon for many days. But truth cannot be suppressed forever. Jeremiah was calling for repentance, but the nation did not like that message. Jeremiah told of the doom they would experience from the Babylonians, but they remained in denial. Jeremiah was right. The Babylonians did come and destroy Israel. Jerusalem was left in ruins. Jeremiah wrote "Lamentations" to lament the needless ruin and destruction. It all could have been avoided if the people had been interested in truth over propaganda.

The Jews came to realize that Jeremiah was right, that God was using Jeremiah to write the truth, and to this day the Jews have acknowledged the books of Jeremiah and Lamentation are truly books of truth, and they forever show what happens to a nation when they prefer propaganda to the truth. His truth is marching on!

Are you a seeker of truth? Or do you prefer to dismiss the truth-tellers and hold to lies and propaganda? The truth will set you free!

The Difference Between a Man and a Dog

By Jeffery Kingry

Mark Twain once quipped, "If you find a shivering, starving dog, take him home to your hearth and make him prosperous, he will not bite you if you attempt to pick him up. This is the main difference between a man and a dog."

Nothing hurts quite as much as a bite from a friend. One whom we trusted to "be there" in time of trouble, standing by to help. Instead joins the enemy and attacks us in word and deed. God knows what that is like, "*Even my close friend, in whom trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me*" ([Psalms 41:9](#)). Indeed, we "*crucify him afresh*" upon the cross ([Hebrews 6:6](#)) when we sin. Yes, God knows the sick feeling of betrayal by those He thought better of.

Sometimes I get tired and discouraged. Unlike some among my brethren, I do not believe that to be a sinful state. Jesus was "*a man of sorrows, well acquainted with grief*" ([Isaiah 53:3](#)). Life is a lot like licking honey off a thorn, not as easy as we might wish it to be. However, "*joy comes with the morning*" ([Psalms 30:5](#)). No night of struggle with our demons of depression is an ultimate match for the hope of faith ... if we can just survive till morning. However, the hardest burdens to bear are those which fall upon

us when we are least able to bear them -- when we are weakest, most downtrodden.

"Now as for me, I said in my prosperity, 'I will never be moved'" ([Psalms 30:7](#)). God knows how it is with men, that "*the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak ...*" ([Mark 14:38](#))? It is easy enough "*in time of prosperity*" to declare, "*Not me, Lord! Even though the others may fall away I will not!... Even if I have to die, I will never forsake you*" ([Mark 14:29-31](#))! But good intentions and fervor in good times do not prepare us the Gethsemane or Golgotha. The Lord knows this.

Depression hurts. When you know you cannot depend upon your friends, that your brethren will most certainly let you down, that good people sleep on, ignorant of your pain, distracted by their own concerns while you agonize, the pain is real and intense. "*My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death. Remain here and keep watch with me*" ([Mark 14:34](#)).

We expect friends, when we have made a mess of things, not to discard us as though we had done a permanent job of it. A true friend feels what we feel. A friend will see us through when others think we are through. He understands even if he might not approve, for he has gone through the same process. The Lord knows this. "*For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin*" ([Hebrews 4:15](#)).

"Being partakers of the divine nature" ([II Peter 1:4](#)) means more than merely having our doctrines straight. It is understanding - not a state achieved once by the intellect as one might come to realize a truth -- but a process ([II Peter 1:5-8](#)); a process of growth developed only by years of living by faith ([I Peter 1:5](#)).

God wants us to understand what it is like being God. He wants us to drink of His cup, and endure the immersion in suffering that He has endured ([Matthew 20:22](#); [Mark 10:38](#)). The servant is not greater than the master. If Jesus learned obedience through the things which he suffered, shall we be exempt ([Hebrews 5:8](#))? Do we wish to be treated as true sons and daughters of God or bastards ([Hebrews 12:8](#))?

The understanding found through endurance does not make the pain of betrayal and rejection go away. The lesson of the brass serpent in the wilderness ([John 3:14](#); [Numbers 21:9](#)) is that the cure does not stop the pain, it just keeps the painful evil bite from being fatal.

No, we can count on a dog to be uncritically loyal and faithful. That is why he is called "Man's Best Friend." That is the major difference between a man and a dog.

